



ISIS0003-100 (ISPH-0522)

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of: Wu *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/900,425

Group Art Unit: 1635

Filed: July 6, 2001

Examiner: Sean McGarry

Title: HUMAN RNASE III AND COMPOSITIONS AND USES THEREOF

Express Mail Number: EV 147610055 US

Deposited: April 16, 2003

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated December 16, 2002. A petition for an extension of time and the appropriate fee accompany this response. Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 with the following:

-- RNA interference (RNAi) is a form of sequence-specific, post-transcriptional gene silencing in animals and plants, elicited by double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) that is homologous in sequence to the silenced gene. Elbashir et al., *Nature*, 2001, 411, 494-498. dsRNA triggers the specific degradation of homologous RNAs, only within the region of homology. The dsRNA is processed to 21- to 23-nucleotide fragments, sometimes called short interfering RNAs (siRNAs) which are believed to be the guide fragments for sequence-specific mRNA degradation. The processing of longer dsRNA to these short

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